

August 31, 2020

St. Louis County COVID-19 Update

COVID-19 Testing

In partnership with our school districts, the Department of Public Health is assembling a set of data points for districts and private schools to access as they work toward a possible return to in-school instruction. By the end of this week, DPH anticipates to share the following points of data with all schools:

- All new cases will be listed on the COVID-19 dashboard, grouped into zip codes and placed within school district boundaries. That dashboard can be found [here](#).
- Additionally, a new cases-per-day indicator will be included in the bi-weekly report scheduled to be released next Friday.
- Youth data will also be expanded, including;
 - New cases and testing positivity rate for age ranges 0-4, 5-9, 10-14 and 15-19.
 - Two-week zip code trends and;
 - Case and contact interview information from schools and school related activity.

The latest case data from the Department of Public Health indicates the following:

- Even with limited school openings, there have been 75 cases associated with schools. In public schools, with mostly virtual learning, most of the cases are among staff. In private schools, with mostly in-person learning, most of the cases are among students.
- Secondary transmission has also been noted, meaning that student cases have transmitted the virus to other students.
- In all, approximately 40 schools in St. Louis County have reported either a positive case or a close contact of a case in August, with increasing reports as the month progressed.
- Reports of school-related cases paired with the high incidence of cases in the County overall (about 200 new cases per day) is concerning.

While the rate of new cases among 15-19-year-olds has risen sharply over the past two months, the rate of new cases among younger children has remained relatively stable. For that reason, there is anticipation that there may be adjusted recommendations for a return to in-person learning among younger students first. At this time, there is no date for which those changes may be announced and it will be some time before recommendations will be reviewed for the return of in person classes for high school students.

Again, testing is available and encouraged. Anyone with regular contact with people outside the household should get tested. Please continue to maintain social distancing, wear masks and practice hand-washing. Testing is by appointment only, can be made [here](#) and at no cost.

Pop-Up Testing Locations

In partnership with St. Louis County Libraries, pop-up testing will occur at the following branches during the month of September. Testing is by appointment only and can be made online [here](#). All pop-up testing locations are between the hours of 8:00 am and noon. [A full schedule is available online at www.slcl.org/events.](#)

Jamestown Bluffs

4153 N Highway 67, 63034

Tuesday, September 1

Samuel C Sachs

16400 Burkhardt, 63017

Thursday, September 3

Sara Dayley

Digital and Media Relations

Saint Louis County Department of Public Health

(314) 615-5090 (Office)

[Twitter: @StLCountyDOH](#)

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